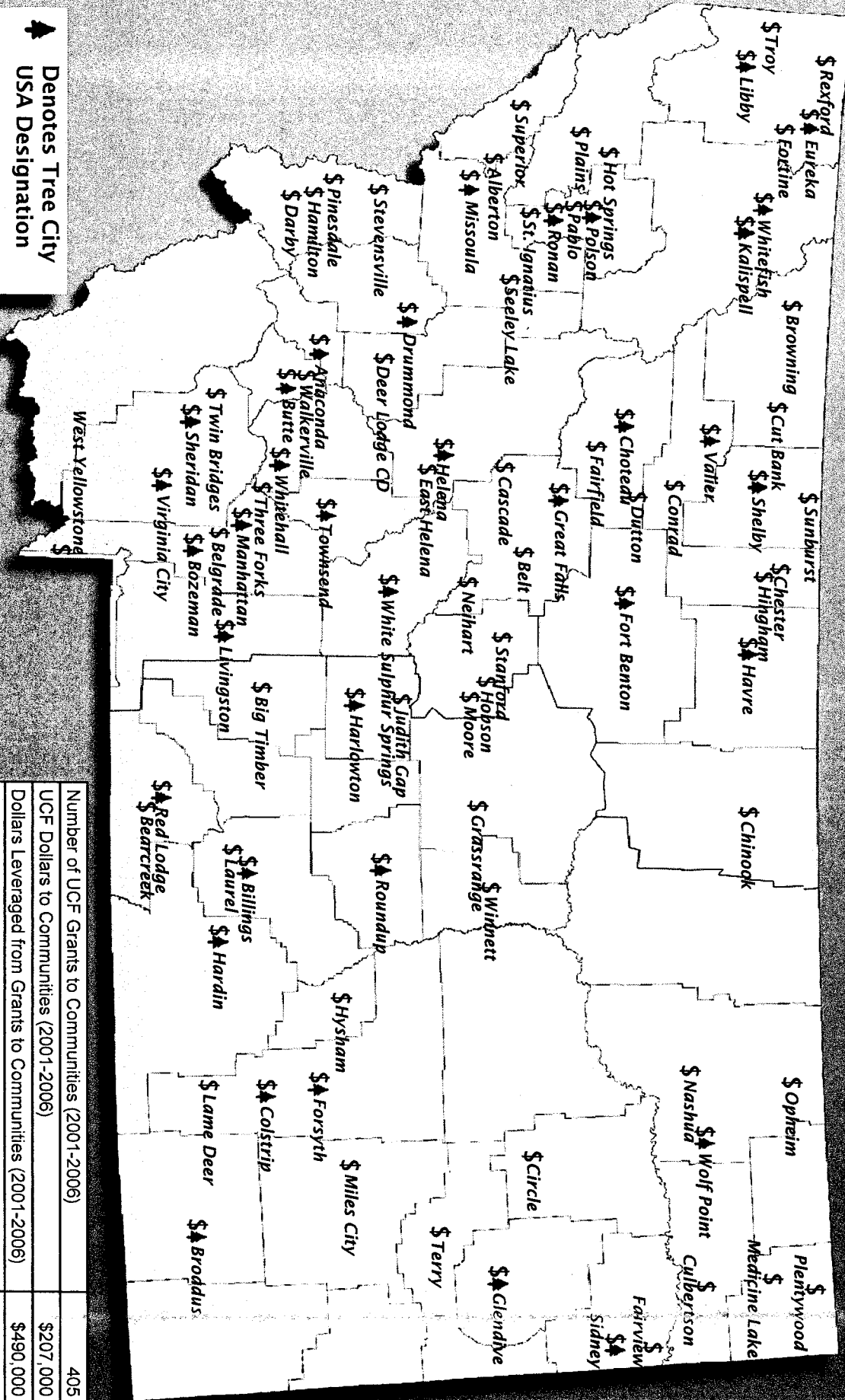


▲ Denotes Tree City USA Designation  
 \$ Denotes UCF Grant Recipient 2001-2006



Number of UCF Grants to Communities (2001-2006)	405
UCF Dollars to Communities (2001-2006)	\$207,000
Dollars Leveraged from Grants to Communities (2001-2006)	\$490,000
Number of Tree City USA Communities in Montana (2006)	37
Total Montana Population Living in a Tree City USA (2006)	418,664
Volunteer Hours Leveraged (2006)	20,416

**URBAN & COMMUNITY FORESTRY GRANTS-TO-COMMUNITIES SUMMARY**  
**2001-2006**

UCF Complete Summary (2001-2006)	# GRANTS AWARDED	AMOUNT AWARDED	AMOUNT PAID	AMOUNT LEVERAGED
PROGRAM				
Arbor Day	323	\$72,200.00	\$68,905.70	\$183,430.72
Tree City USA	21	\$10,500.00	\$10,428.46	\$16,602.59
AMTOP	21	\$3,890.00	\$3,885.00	\$3,514.70
Lewis and Clark	1	\$20,000.00	\$17,394.14	\$17,393.14
Tree Planting and Care	9	\$14,368.00	\$14,368.00	\$42,515.97
Program Development	30	\$85,432.00	\$71,360.84	\$226,592.15
	405	\$206,390.00	\$186,342.14	\$490,049.27

**\$2.63**

Average \$\$ leveraged.

## **DNRC FORESTRY DIVISION**

### **FORESTRY ASSISTANCE BUREAU**

### **STRATEGIC GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

The Forestry Assistance Bureau promotes the health and productivity of Montana's forest lands and urban forests. The Bureau and the Department's Area Offices administer Montana's Forest Practices Laws and Rules, voluntary Forestry Water Quality Best Management Practices, and Private Forestry Assistance Programs.

The Bureau currently supports six programs: Forest Practices, Forest Stewardship, Urban Forestry, Forest Pest Management, Biomass Utilization, and a Conservation Seedling Nursery. Our primary delivery tools include information and education, technical assistance, financial assistance and partnerships. Our efforts emphasize increasing the knowledge, understanding and hands-on involvement of Montana's landowners, with focused attention to Family Forest landowners, forest managers and woods workers. We believe this to be an effective means of cultivating and sustaining a passion for stewardship that will lead to increased creation and implementation of forest management plans and increased compliance with forest practices regulations. We believe this proactive approach to fostering forest stewardship, coupled with enforcement of forest practices regulations, to be a highly effective strategy for achieving sustainable management of Montana's forests.

#### **MISSION:**

Maintain and improve the health of Montana's forests, forested watersheds, and the communities that depend on them.

#### **VISION:**

Montana's rural and urban forests are resilient, sustainable and actively managed to meet landowner and societal needs into the future.

## **FORESTRY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS:**

### **Forest Practices**

Administration of Montana's forest practices laws, rules and forest water quality best management practices.

### **Forest Stewardship**

Promote forest stewardship by assisting Family Forest landowners in acquiring personal knowledge about their forest resources and in developing and implement a forest management plan for their property.

### **Urban Forestry**

Provide Montana's urban communities with assistance in establishing and maintaining urban forestry programs.

### **Conservation Seedling Nursery**

Produce and distribute seedlings for conservation plantings to private landowners, state, federal and tribal landowners and other conservation organizations.

### **Forest Pest Management**

Provide assistance to Family Forest landowners and others in the identification and management of forest insects and diseases.

### **Biomass Utilization – Fuels For Schools and Beyond**

Promoting the use of forest biomass as an energy source for heating schools and other public facilities.

## **PILLARS OF ASSISTANCE DELIVERY:**

### **Education**

We sponsor training, conduct on-site consultations, and provide written materials to forest interest groups in Montana. We increase awareness of natural resource laws and appropriate forest practices. We strive to improve the quality of education and the efficiency of our outreach measures for DNRC employees and the people of Montana.

### **Technical Assistance**

We provide personalized consultations to forest communities and landowners. We build local capacity to sustain adaptive management of Montana forests. We strive to learn new forest management concepts, and pass them to Montana forest landowners.

### **Financial Assistance**

We distribute grants and provide funds to communities and private forest owners. We aid projects that promote sustainable management of healthy forests. We strive to ensure diverse financial support from diverse sources.

### **Partnerships**

We increase our capacity to provide forestry services by partnering with other forestry agencies and groups. We strive to diversify the Montana forestry network by initiating new partnerships and strengthening those that already exist.

**Goal 4: Urban Forestry Strategic Goals And Objectives:** Ensure urban forests within Montana communities have effective, self-sustaining Urban Forestry Programs.

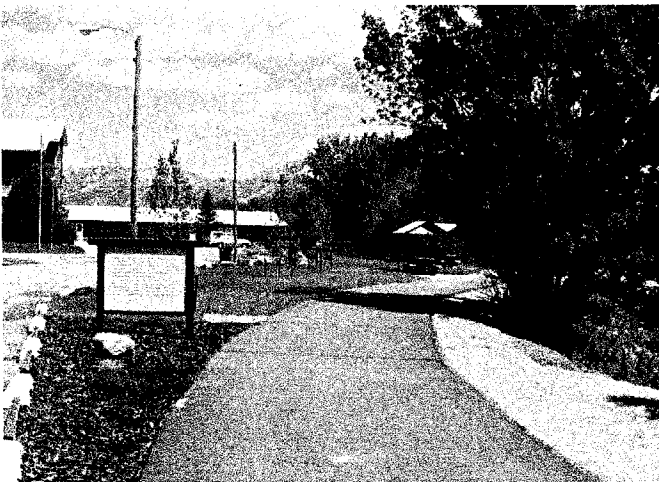
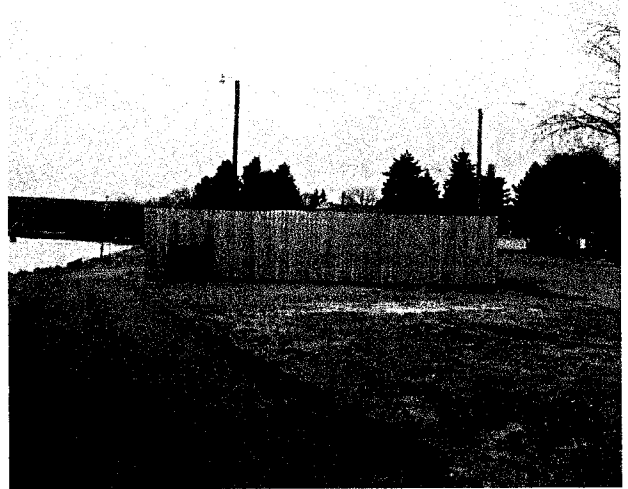
**Objectives:**

- 4A. Promote public understanding of the importance and value of urban forests, the need for sound urban forest management, and the services available.
  - 1. Provide program outreach through educational opportunities, displays, publications, public contacts and inter-agency collaboration.
  - 2. Promote key urban forestry activities and programs such as Arbor Day and Tree City USA statewide.
- 4B. Ensure that all practitioners are educated and knowledgeable in current urban forestry principles, practices and standards.
  - 1. Provide DNRC and collaborative training opportunities to tree care professionals in the public and private sector.
  - 2. Promote arborist certification and other professional licensure for public and private tree care professionals.
- 4C. Ensure every Montana community has an opportunity to develop and implement a sustainable urban forestry program.
  - 1. Engage Montana communities in the implementation and further development of urban forestry programs that incorporate sound municipal resource management objectives.
  - 2. Provide Montana communities the access to urban forestry assistance necessary to meet their municipal resource management needs.
  - 3. Actively pursue financial assistance opportunities and distribute funds to communities.
- 4D. Fully integrate a network of supporters throughout the state to work cooperatively toward sound urban forestry management.
  - 1. Identify natural resource professionals (county, state, private and/or federal) that have interest in urban forestry, which can then be used as a catalyst for program building in the local area.

*Fort Benton, Montana*  
*Urban and Community Forestry Renewal*

In 2005, the City of Fort Benton undertook the task of restoring a “brownfield” area along the Missouri River to enhance an historic, cultural and biologically important stretch of shoreline in advance of the 2005 Lewis and Clark Corps of Discovery Signature Event.

The Steamboat Levee Park on the Missouri River, located across from the original Fort Benton, is one of the most important early trading posts because of its location at the head of navigation on the Mis-



souri River. Fort Benton is also downstream from “Decision Point,” where the Lewis and Clark Expedition spent nine days in June 1805 discussing which of the two rivers, the Marias and Missouri, led to the Pacific Ocean. Additionally, Fort Benton serves as the gateway of the Upper Missouri Wild and Scenic River, established by Presidential Proclamation in January 2001 as part of the Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument.

The Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) Urban and Community Forestry Program, in cooperation with the USDA Forest Service, assisted Fort Benton with the renewal of the Steamboat Levee park by providing a \$17,400 grant to the community with a 1:1 match from the community in Spring 2005. Costs of the project included soil remediation, irrigation, landscape and native shade tree and shrub planting, sod and historic signage.

Since 2001, the Montana DNRC Urban and Community Forestry Program has provided over \$200,000 in grants to communities. In kind, communities have spent an additional \$450,000 on local tree planting projects, program development projects and activities associated with Arbor Day and Tree City USA.



## **Townsend, Montana**

### **Citizen Initiative gets Municipality on board with Urban & Community Forestry**

In 2004, Broadwater County completed a Resource Assessment and identified its priority as planting trees along the highway corridors, Broadway and Front Street, through the City of Townsend. The Townsend Tree Board developed annual work plans and formed partnerships with city and county governments, the Broadwater Conservation District, Montana Rail Link, service groups, and private contractors to address the issue.

With the assistance of Montana DNRC's Urban and Community Forestry Program and Resource Conservation and Advisory Council, the Townsend Tree Board has received over \$25,000 in grants over the last five years for community forestry renewal, landscaping, and beautification projects.

The Tree Board has joined with the Townsend Rotary Club and Broadwater County Development Corporation to complete other community beautification and infrastructure development projects. Two phases of the Front Street project have been completed. The estimated cost for the project was \$150,000. To date the project has been completed for less than \$27,000. The third phase of the Front Street beautification project is planned for 2007.

A tree inventory of more than 500 public trees was recently completed with the help of the Broadwater County High School Bug and Weed Project. The Townsend Tree Board is now linking the tree data with photos on an ARC View map of Townsend. The inventory is being used to identify priority tree planting areas and to make presentations to local groups for developing more interest in tree planting.

Over 160 trees have been planted in Townsend over the last three years. The first trees in over 60 years were planted in the business district sidewalks in 2005. These tree plantings stimulated a "Trees for Broadway" fund that raised over \$12,000 in contributions and resulted in additional tree plantings on Broadway and in the business district. The community now offers a memorial tree planting and dedicated six trees in 2006.

Over 250 of the 1,900 residents of Townsend have helped with the community tree planting projects in 2006. Broadwater High School and Elementary School students helped plant many of the trees on Arbor Day over the last three years. The Broadwater County High School construction technology class has made tree cages for the trees in the sidewalks the last two years and will make more in 2007. In 2006, the Tree Board matched a \$1,500 grant received by the Toston Blue Ribbon 4-H Club from the National 4-H Council to plant trees at the Broadwater County Fairgrounds. The project also received another \$1,000 from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans and another \$1,000 from the Broadwater Community Foundation. The \$15,000 project resulted in 25 trees being planted at the Fairgrounds on Arbor Day and National Join Hands Day by the Tree Board, 4-H members and their parents, members of the Lutheran Church and the Townsend Rotary Club. More trees have been ordered for planting at the Fairgrounds in 2007.

The Tree Board also coordinated landscaping projects with high school students and 4-H Club members at the elementary and high schools, the Broadwater County Detention Center, the Broadwater Medical Clinic, and the Copy Cup. In 2006, the Tree Board taught a landscaping unit for the Broadwater County High School construction technology class and the students helped landscape the south side of the elementary school as part of the project.

The hard work of the Tree Board has brought rewards! Since its inception, the Townsend Tree Board has had to depend on grants and donations to get projects completed. For the first time in July 2006, the Townsend City Council has approved \$14,000 in funding to implement the first year of a 5-year care and maintenance plan for city trees, to fund an emergency tree care fund, to fund new Tree Board community forestry projects, and to institute a "Plant the Right Tree in the Right Place Program". In addition, the Tree Board asked Broadwater County Commissioners for \$1,000 to landscape and plant trees in Veteran's Memorial Park in 2007. In response, the County Commissioners gave the Tree Board \$5,000 to continue implementing tree planting and community beautification projects in 2007.

Townsend has been named Tree City USA and received Growth Awards from Tree City USA three years in a row. In 2006, Townsend received a State of Montana Urban Forestry Excellence Award from the Montana League of Cities and Towns. Also, in 2006, Townsend received a regional Gold Leaf Award from the Rocky Mountain Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) for Outstanding Arbor Day Activities.

In 2006, four blocks of new sidewalks in the business district were completed with MDOT Community Transportation Enhancement Program funds with new decorative lighting and cutouts completed for future tree planting. Also in 2006, almost a 3 million dollar SID was used to repave all the city streets in Townsend.

Things are happening in Townsend! 2007 will be another very active year. Stop and visit. The Tree Board will gladly give tours and buy you a doughnut at our new bakery.

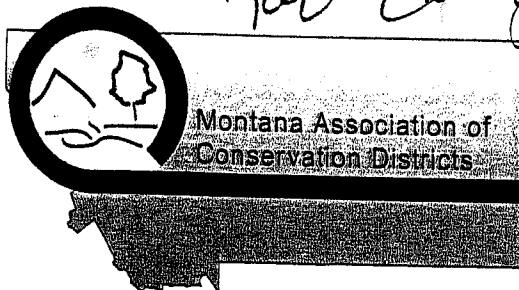
Contact:

Kelley Gundale, Urban and Community Forestry Program Coordinator

406-542-4284

[kgundale@mt.gov](mailto:kgundale@mt.gov)





Montana Association of  
Conservation Districts

*Rob - Ter - Green - Miles - Sexton*

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**Staff**

Sarah Carlson  
Executive Director

Steve Merritt  
Outreach Coordinator  
& LEP Contract Manager

Jan Fontaine  
Administrative Assistant

June 20, 2006

Dear Director Sexton:

I would like to let you know that the Montana Association of Conservation Districts (MACD) Board of Directors voted earlier this month to add supporting DNRC's Urban and Community Forestry program to MACD's legislative agenda.

Specifically, MACD strongly supports your \$200,000 Resource Indemnity Trust (RIT) funding proposal for the program in the 2008-2009 biennium budget currently under consideration in the Governor's office. We applaud your efforts on this important issue.

Rob Etheridge of your staff did a great job recently explaining the program to the Board members. Its focus on local resource issues and promoting voluntary stewardship fits perfectly with the overall objective of Conservation Districts (CDs). Furthermore, as all CDs have urban supervisors on their Boards, we are ready to assist in delivering the program locally. It is a previously untapped relationship that, when further developed, can benefit all. Now that we are more familiar with the program details and see the possibilities it presents, we want to make sure it continues with an appropriate level of funding.

Thank you for considering our input on this issue and please let me, or any Board member, know if you have any questions or need further information.

Sincerely,

*COPY*  
Sarah Carlson

Executive Director, Montana Association of Conservation Districts



2705 Spurgin Road  
Missoula, MT 59804-3199  
Phone: 406-542-4284  
Web: [dnrc.mt.gov/Forestry/Assistance/Urban/mucfa](http://dnrc.mt.gov/Forestry/Assistance/Urban/mucfa)

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*U&CF Specialist, MT DNRC (Western Region)*

Dudley Marburger  
*Private Arborist, Dudley's Trees*

Jon G. Thompson  
*Natural Resources Mgr, Great Falls*

David Wilson  
*Parks & Recreation Director, Havre (Retired)*

#### MISSION

The Montana Urban and Community Forestry Association (MUCFA) encourages active management of local community forestry programs for the benefit of the citizens of Montana. MUCFA is an advisory group to the State Forester on the direction of the Montana Urban & Community Forestry Program.

Mary Sexton, Director  
Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)  
1625 Eleventh Avenue  
Helena, MT 59620-1601

October 4, 2006

Dear Director Sexton:

On behalf of the Montana Urban and Community Forestry Association (MUCFA), I present the signatures of municipal officials affiliated with the Montana League of Cities and Towns (MLCT) in support of DNRC's Urban and Community Forestry program.

Specifically, we strongly support the \$200,000 Resource Indemnity Trust (RIT) funding proposal for the program in the 2008-2009 biennium budget currently under consideration in the Governor's office.

The Montana Urban and Community Forestry (U&CF) program assists Montana's 129 incorporated cities and towns in addition to many other unincorporated communities with technical, financial and volunteer coordination assistance that would otherwise be unavailable to municipal governments due to limited staffing, budgets and expertise base. This expertise that the U&CF program provides and their focus on local resource issues as well as promoting voluntary stewardship helps to strengthen our community economically, aesthetically and environmentally and we want to make sure it continues with an appropriate level of funding.

Thank you for considering our input on this issue and please let me, or any Board member know if you have any questions or need further information.

Sincerely,

Ryon Stover, Chair  
Montana Urban and Community Forestry Association



We, the undersigned pledge our support of the \$200,000 Resource Indemnity Trust (RIT) funding proposal for the DNRC's Urban and Community Forestry program in the 2008-2009 biennium budget currently under consideration in the Governor's office.

Name/Title

Community

Signature

Cheryl Batten	Asst. City Manager	Great Falls	Cheryl Batten
Tim Burton	City Manager	Helena	Tim Burton
Bradley Matteson	Mayor	Forsyth, MT	Bradley Matteson
John Smith	City Mgr.	Great Falls	John Smith
Charlie Vandam	PBS & S	Missoula	Charlie Vandam
Debbie Vonada	Helena		Debbie Vonada
Terrie Casey	East Helena		Terrie Casey